



The University of Vermont

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Living/Learning B-101

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September 30, 2020

Dear students planning to study abroad Spring 2021,

In an August 25 communication, we indicated that the University would decide by November 1 whether to allow semester study abroad to proceed for programs commencing January – April. While some locations around the world have lower COVID-19 health risks, there are significant challenges related to the pandemic, as further detailed below, that make travel exceedingly difficult and more unpredictable. Therefore, UVM is rescinding your study abroad approval for Spring 2021. You will not be charged the study abroad fee.

We recognize this is very disappointing news. If you would like to defer your study abroad participation and/or discuss study abroad in a future term, please reply to this email. If you would like to schedule an appointment with a study abroad advisor you can do so by using the Navigate app ([click here for instructions](#)) or by calling 1-802-664-0053 (Google voice is in use because we are currently staffing our main line phone remotely due to COVID-19). A decision regarding Summer 2021 study abroad will be announced during the Spring 2021 semester.

You were advised in late August to prepare for this possibility. Therefore, the remaining steps for you to complete will be minimal:

**Notification of program:** If you are enrolled on an external or direct-enroll program, **please notify your program/host university of your withdrawal, and notify them if you would like to defer.** We will inform exchange partners, NUI-Galway, ISEP, and the Buckham program, of spring cancelation; we will solicit their input on whether deferring to a future term is possible for the program in which you were placed and will notify you once we hear from them.

**Work with your academic advisor to solidify your plan for next semester and beyond.** Confirm what classes you will take in Spring 2021 at UVM. Discuss if you are able to fit study abroad into a future term. UVM study abroad advisors are happy to assist you in switching to a different term.

**Factors influencing the decision to cancel Spring 2021 study abroad:**

- U.S. citizens or permanent residents are being denied entry to most countries
- The U.S. Department of State country travel advisories remain at a Level 4 (Do not travel) or a Level 3 (Reconsider travel) for nearly all countries to which UVM students travel for study abroad.
  - The Department of State warns that travelers may continue to experience border closures, airport closures/lack of flights, travel prohibitions, stay-at-home orders, business closures, and other emergency conditions.
  - The Department of State may not be able to provide normal US citizen services in many locations.
  - International SOS, UVM's emergency services provider, also warns that travelers may have these and other issues due to the pandemic.

- The course of the pandemic remains unpredictable, with some countries experiencing secondary waves of infection.

UVM highly values study abroad experiences as part of our students' education, and regrets that the current circumstances require us to take this step.

Sincerely,



Kim Howard  
Director  
Office of International Education